



EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION

National Commemorative Foundation

Recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Defense, Secretary's of the Army, Navy, USCG & Members of Congress
NATIONAL FOUNDATION OFFICE ~ WWW.EXERCISETIGER.ORG
Susan C. Haines, National Director ~ P.O. Box 246 ~ Columbia, MO 65205 ~ Ph. #877-WW2-TIGR

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Susan C. Haines

Founding Member New Jersey
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LST 289 National Association
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NATIONAL MEMBERS

Over 3000 members
representing 21 states

December 17, 2012

MESSAGE TO AMERICA

TO: Families and Residents of Newtown, Connecticut

RE: December 14, 2012

Shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School
Newtown, Connecticut

On behalf of the United States Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation, our staff and veterans, we extend to the families and residents of Newtown, Connecticut our deepest thoughts and prayers to all effected by the tragic events of Friday, December 14, 2012. Just as the "Tiger" Foundation stands as a beacon for veterans and military, so too do the teachers of Sandy Hook School stand as a "Beacon of Light" for the students.

We are a foundation that honors veterans and our military who face combat on a foreign land. But 21st century battlefields aren't just in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are in our schools as well, Columbine, Virginia Tech, and now Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Conn. We expect our soldiers to face combat, not our teachers and school children. Acts of heroism by the principle and teachers saved many. One school teacher grabbed two eight year olds and pulled them into her class as bullets ripped down the hallway. She saved their lives. Other heroes like Dawn Hochsprung, the principle, who lunged at the shooter, or Natalie Hammond, the wounded teacher, or Kaitlyn Roy, a teacher who saved her class. Combat in Connecticut not Afghanistan. The shooter fired over 100 rounds of 9 mm bullets.

As the attack unfolded, area hospitals in Newtown and Danbury awaited the wounded. None would come. In fact only one teacher and two students wounded made it to local hospitals. But despite heroic efforts, they too died. The shooter was without mercy. He killed the principle and five other teachers and staff. But his most cowardly act was to brutally murder 20 children ages 6 to 10. A first grade class was gone. In all 26 lay dead. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. ...one hour that will forever stand frozen in time.



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We in Missouri can only send our prayers to our fellow citizens in Connecticut. The families and loved ones of those killed, many who are veterans and have served in the military deserve more than words. That is why I am taking the following actions. As a foundation that honors and remembers, we will do so with this tragedy as well. When Virginia Tech students were killed, the "Tiger" Foundation placed white roses into the ocean at our national tribute. We will again place a bouquet of 26 white roses into the ocean. I have asked Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light to do this honor and they graciously accepted, and will lay the roses at sea on Friday, December 21, 2012 at 9:30 a.m..

At our National Memorial in Missouri we will also place a bouquet of 26 roses in memory and honor. I have also asked our board to determine the appropriate memorial for the Newtown School, families and community.

"Evil visited this community today," Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy told reporters in Newtown. Those precious little children faced evil but for a moment, now they will touch the face of God for eternity. We ALL must take comfort in that. They will remain in our hearts forever.

Our sincerest condolences and prayers to Newtown, Connecticut. May God bless ALL of the families tormented by this tragedy with peace, love and compassion.

My deepest sympathy,

Susan C. Haines
National Director